

SALINA ARTS & HUMANITIES COMMISSION
July 18, 2007

The monthly meeting of the Salina Arts and Humanities Commission was held at the Smoky Hill Museum Community Room at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 18, 2007. In attendance were Marilyn Benyshek, Kati Blue, Shirley Braxton, Peggy DeBey, Rachel Loersch, Linda Moore, Ramona Newsom, Cheri Parr, Linda L. Smith, and John K. Vanier II. Staff Present: Sharon Benson, Kathy Burlew, Carrie Carpenter, Brigid Hall, Susan Hawksworth, John Highkin, Glenda Johnson, and Karla Prickett. Absent: Shawn Crawford, Randall Hardy, Gayle McMillen and Ted Zerger. Also in attendance: Phyll Klima, Salina Downtown Inc. and Carmen Wilson, League of Women Voters

Smith called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Focus Time: Phyll Klima, Salina Downtown, Inc. (SDI)

SAHC invited Phyll Klima, executive director of Salina Downtown, Inc. (SDI) to give a presentation on SDI's designation of downtown as "The Lee District." The SDI Image Task Force has been following the strategic plan that was written by Denver-based consultants, Progressive Urban Management Associates (P.U.M.A.), utilizing the plan effectively. For the Image Task Force, the biggest challenge has been to write a mission statement, vision statement and brand identity for downtown. The branding campaign will happen in early August.

Klima pointed out that the PUMA plan had concluded that Salina lacked a unified vision for downtown, suggesting that the vision for the future of downtown Salina lies in the "mirror not in the crystal ball." She said that they stopped trying to invent something and started looking at "ourselves and where we came from and how we got here." Historically there were strong leaders of the community, entrepreneurs. In the district – Elm to Prescott and 4th to 8th – major building that is preserved, providing continuity and history of community. Next step for the Salina Downtown's Business Support and Recruitment Committee is to work on the position statement using downtown's market-based PUMA study as a guide – working, living, shopping to recruit businesses, individuals and working with developers. Business improvement districts like SDI are considered small business incubators. They partner state-wide and locally; Klima suggests that they need all of this in developing a mission statement.

Benyshek – are there going to be logos developed? Klima – yes, not fully developed yet but in the works – trying to pair the roll-out with the existing First Thursday event. Moore – where is the Lee Museum? Hawksworth – Kansas City. There will be a Lee exhibit case in the back of the Museum; working with Lee to get artifacts. Benyshek commented on letter to the editor written by the president of Lee Jeans - very nice support.

Smith introduced Ramona Newsom who has replaced Luci Larson. Smith also thanked Moore for conducting the June meeting in her absence.

Minutes

Loersch moved to approve the June 20, 2007 minutes and Benyshek seconded. Motion passed.

Staff Reports

No discussion

Horizons

The following Horizons reports were enclosed in the packet.

- a. Saline Co. Commission on Aging #06-02-21 *Sunflower Therapeutic Arts*
- b. Salina Art Center #06-03-01 *Artist Initiative Year 2*
- c. Salina Symphony #06-02-14 *Pictures at an Exhibition*
- d. YMCA Child Care Resource and Referral #07-02-23 *Introducing Art in Early Childhood*
- e. Pamela Harris, Artist Award #06-05-109
- f. Barbara H Snyder, Artist Award #06-05-132
- g. Robin Ginther, Artist Award #06-05-115

Material was distributed to accompany the Salina Symphony, Pamela Harris and Barbara Snyder's reports. Smith commented on the diversity of the grants and how the grants touched preschool to the elderly and anyone between.

Horizons Committee Update

Moore – event is set for November 10th. Two-thirds of Horizons members are up for membership renewal. Committee discussed more about Horizons program and level of giving for memberships, planning small focus groups. In August, the committee will be scheduling meetings with existing Horizons members and non members to discuss ways to help the Horizons program grow. Benson - Developing Artists and Artists Award applications are due September 1.

Big Ideas Update

Smith, Randy Graham, Highkin and Burlew had a conference call with Diane Mataraza on Tuesday, July 17th to discuss the next steps. Surveys are all in – Mataraza is very pleased with the numbers: 1178 public opinions (most from online), 175 artists and 31 organizations (from both cultural organizations and service agencies.) Surale Phillips has crunched the numbers and database numbers that she received from the 8 organizations. Highkin – work plan has been revised and approved by Jason Gage. Mataraza's next visit is scheduled for September 20th. She will be meeting with staff, Steering Committee, Finance Committee, organizations and artists to discuss the research findings. On October 24 & 25 Mataraza will be presenting a draft of recommendations – 75 minute reviewing sessions will be scheduled. Mataraza will take the feedback received from the sessions and will send a draft by December 7th. SAHC will respond with any changes by December 25th. Mataraza will present the plan to the City Commission at the Study Session on January 14th and January 28th the final report will go to City Commission for approval.

Highkin commented on the newspaper article regarding the mills and Mataraza's statements. Highkin likes the fact that when Mataraza completes a plan the goals are realistic and implementable. Smith – findings will let us know what is feasible as to what can be done now and what will need planning before it happens. Parr – will there be a semi annual or annual follow-up? Highkin – benchmarks and defined review will be built into the plan that Mataraza writes. Smith, who served on the Planning Committee and helped hire Mataraza, said Mataraza had a real positive presentation from the get go. On paper it looked like it could be a go from the beginning. Benyshek – did surveys include Saline County? Highkin – it was intended for Saline County residents who either work or live in the county.

CAD Update

Highkin – City Clerk is gathering Expression of Interest forms from potential CAD Advisory Committee members. City Commission will be assigning people to the committee by August 20th. The Committee will have, by policy, two Arts & Humanities Commissioners, one of whom is chair, three art/design professionals including one working artist and one working design professional, and two community-members-at-large. Highkin – once we get the committee in place we will do an orientation on guidelines, the CIP, and public art issues; the Committee and staff will establish a work plan. Part of the committee's responsibility will be looking at the CIP and making sure projects go through CAD. Community forums will be developed and scheduled. Also, Prickett has been working with Ken Kennedy at USD305 on a sports addition project at Central High School – talking about potential art projects in two construction projects – adding tennis court, weight room, PE room.

Nominating Committee Report

DeBey presented the Slate of Officers for 2007-2008: Moore, Chair; DeBey, Vice Chair; Crawford, Secretary; and Parr, Treasurer. Loersch motioned to accept the Slate of Officers and Braxton seconded. Motion passed.

Smith's term will expire as of August 31, 2007 and Parr and Braxton are up for renewal. Commissioners will be appointed by City Commissioners before September's meeting.

Museum Update

Hawksworth – American Association of Museums (AAM) reaccreditation requires the Smoky Hill Museum to have a formally approved, separate and distinct Code of Ethics to help ensure the museum is a good steward of resources and committed to public accountability, and that staff and volunteers legally, ethically and effectively carry out their duties. Consistency is needed between the Museum Code of Ethics and AAM's Code of Ethics guidelines. Parts of the document come from other (attributed) sources, from other museum and discipline specific resources. Policies must be consistent with the community the Museum serves and encourage conduct that merits confidence. Highkin – a thorough document and quite comprehensive - looking at ethical conduct of people as well as Museum practices. Benyshek – wasn't aware of the need to vote for approval so admitted she didn't read it with the intention to vote. DeBey asked Hawksworth if it was possible to purchase something (a donation) that isn't accepted into the Museum's Collections. Hawksworth – the donor is given a chance to pick up the item and if she/he does not want it there are specific policies in place on how to dispose of the item. A private collector (and especially anyone associated with the museum) would only be able to purchase it if the sale and disposal of the object is open to the public. (Private collecting is specifically addressed in the proposed revised Code of Ethics.) The Museum does not actively go out and purchase items but that doesn't mean we won't. Friends of the Museum will meet in August to approve the Code of Ethics and once they approve Hawksworth will be sending out a Vote by Mail ballot to SAHC.

Other

There being no further business, Benyshek motioned to adjourn the meeting and Moore seconded. Motion passed.

Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

/kab